

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 15, 2005. Claims 1-13 are pending in the Application and stand rejected. Claims 1-13 are amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakai (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,586 B1).

Applicants thank Examiner Sheela Rao for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on April 19, 2005. During the interview, amendments to the claims as herein presented were proposed, and arguments as hereinafter developed were presented.

During the interview the meaning of tooling sheets was explained in view of Applicants' disclosure. As noted on page 1, lines 5-8 of Applicants' specification, the present invention relates to the preparation of tooling sheets, which involve the generation of recommended cutting conditions for a cutting tool, including a tool body, insert, and the material of the insert. Conventional practice has been to examine catalogs supplied by manufacturers, or to search cutting tool databases, and to select an optimum combination on the basis of experience and skill of the designer in consideration of cutting conditions, thus resulting on an unreliable method of tool selection.¹ Therefore, it is one of the objects of the instant invention to provide a system and method for the preparation of tooling sheets, and a program for the preparation of tooling sheets containing recommended cutting conditions that

¹ See, Specification, page 1, third paragraph.

take into account a combination of a tool body, an insert, and a material of the insert. In addition, the recommended cutting conditions for selected tools may also be modified as desired in response to use conditions.²

Although an agreement with respect to the claims was not reached, Examiner Rao noted in the interview summary (form PTOL-413) that: "Mr. McQuay and I discussed the definition of "tooling sheets" as used in the instant invention. As discussed and explained, the currently cited reference of prior art does not provide sufficient basis for rejection of the instant claims; thus further search and consideration is necessary. Upon submission of the Applicants' response, further consideration and review will be made."

Based at least on the foregoing discussion and the results of the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-summarized anticipation rejection and the objection to Applicants' specification are now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the objection to Applicants' specification are respectfully requested.

In response to the rejections of Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants note with appreciation the time taken by the Examiner to identify specific areas needing revisions. Applicants submit that the amendments to Claims 1-13 have overcome these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and respectfully request their withdrawal. It is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

² See, Specification, page 2, lines 1-6.

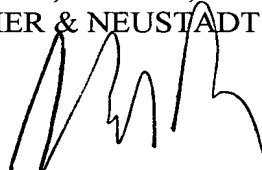
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Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-13 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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